

**SOUTHERN COLUMBIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**800 SOUTHERN DRIVE**  
**CATAWISSA, PA 17820**

The May 19, 2008, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:39 p.m. with President Michael Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Yeager welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Timothy Benner  
Charles Porter  
Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser  
Paul Starr  
Richard Steele (*Absent*)

David Stellfox  
Michael Yeager  
John Yocum

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Yeager announced that all items on the agenda would be action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He announced that his year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first graduating class from Southern Area. The class of 1958 will be invited to attend the graduation ceremony to be recognized on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Haas Auditorium, Bloomsburg University. The mailing list for Roaring Creek is on hand, but the Ralpho list is still needed.

2.) At the last meeting, Mr. Porter announced that the athletic program had a revision to the coaches' salary criteria. There is a revision to the point system, which increases the budget by \$6,500. There was an additional position of Assistant Athletic Director and Strength Training Coordinator at a salary of \$4,000. The new Junior High Girls Soccer Coach is a \$1,200 addition. The new wrestling mats would be the largest increase with an estimate of \$9,700. Also, in the past, the bowling team had to pay the practice fees. The district will now pay those fees for an additional \$3,000. Uniform replacement is included for \$6,000.

3.) The board meeting scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> will be changed to June 23, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. The Facilities/Finance Committee meeting scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> will be changed to June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Curriculum Committee will meet with the Department Head Teachers on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The Curriculum and Policy Committees will also change their meetings from June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the regularly scheduled times and locations.

4.) Mr. Becker reported that the following athletes qualified to compete in the District IV State Track and Field Championships: Ted Heitzman, javelin; Justin Knoebel, shot put; Sam Springer, 100 meter dash; Nate Leighow, 3200 meter run. Also the girls 4 x 800 meter team of Rachel Scicchitano, Cynthia Adams, Monnica Manney and Lindsey Clark qualified and Cynthia Adams qualified for the 800 meter run. The baseball and softball teams are also going into district playoff competition. The Band and Chorus had a great concert on the past Thursday.

## Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2008

Page 2

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5) Mr. Nunkester reported that on May 13<sup>th</sup>, Law Day was celebrated on campus. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades participated during the morning. The State Police helicopter, Life Flight, Mounted Police and motorcycles were just some of the features. The event will be held every two years.

6) Several students represented the district at "Bugles Across America" which was held Saturday morning at Bloomsburg University. The program honors veterans and the students played Taps.

7) Mrs. Victoria Kozlek, Middle School Technology Teacher, and several students gave presentations on technology and their CSIU Computer Fair projects. Three of the top projects were featured. Casey Savitski and Andrew Jessick gave a presentation on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade School Publication class. Matt Lupold and Lauren Kerstetter gave a presentation on their web page design project. Andrew Jessick and Jessica Genovese gave a presentation on multi-media. Mr. Reh thanked the students and Mrs. Kozlek for the excellent presentation. President Yeager commended the students on their speaking ability.

8) Mr. Reh requested an executive session following the meeting for personnel matters.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that Mr. Mehalick met with the committee and deferred to him for the following report. Mr. Mehalick presented details of the Special Education Plan. The plan is due May 31<sup>st</sup>. The document is still a draft. The content will not change, but some wording will be changed. A little over 19 percent of students in the district are identified, which is over the state average. He noted that the evaluation period will change from 60 school days to 60 calendar days and the district must evaluate students within that timeframe to be in compliance with state regulations. Effective July 1, 2008, paraeducators will need to have 20 hours of professional development each year in the area in which they are working. Effective July 1, 2010, the state mandates that a school district cannot hire a paraeducator unless they are deemed highly competent, through a two-year degree, 60 credits or by passing a state test.

Mr. Reh noted that there is nothing in the plan concerning the building project, because nothing has been approved. Mr. Porter asked how the paraeducator requirements would affect the district in the labor contract and if a new employee class would need to be added to the contract. Mr. Porter suggested that Mr. Mehalick get in touch with Attorney Beard concerning that matter. Mr. Mehalick stated that the law is clear and he is counting on the state to offer 60 continuing education credits. He reported that most of the paraeducators will turn to the highly qualified exam. President Yeager encouraged board members to read the plan carefully and notify Mr. Mehalick if there were any concerns.

Policy - The meeting was cancelled.

Negotiations and Personnel – Thomas Slusser, Chairperson, asked if anyone had gotten in touch with Carl Beard concerning negotiations. Solicitor Roberts replied that he called him but was awaiting a reply. He agreed to contact him again.

### TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yocum, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

## Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2008

Page 3

---

### MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. Minutes of April 14 and 21, 2008.
- B. General Fund invoices (with the exception of check #17280/\$5,597.50) in the amount of \$451,053.30 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$2,550.

Mr. Porter asked about check #17280 to Central Columbia Food for Elementary Life Skills. Mr. Rodgers did not have the details of the invoice and recommended removing it from the list of invoices up for approval. Both Stellfox and Yocum agreed to amend the motion accordingly. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2007-2008 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. Resolution pertaining to the adoption of a 403(b) Plan Document (**per Exhibit B**).

Prior to voting, President Yeager asked for an explanation of Fiscal Item B pertaining to the adoption of a Plan Document for our 403(b) plans. Mr. Rodgers replied that the district needed to adopt a new Plan Document due to IRS regulation changes. It's making school districts a little more accountable for their 403(b) plans. Solicitor Roberts stated that there is actually a savings to the district because it does not have to contribute its share of FICA taxes. Solicitor Roberts reported that Personnel Item C is a related item. He had some concern about part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The discussions were that the retirees would decide annually whether or not they wanted to have their retirement severance contributed to the 403(b) plan or take it in cash. He noted that it would be problematic. If there were two retirees and one wanted to put it in the plan and one wanted cash, what would be done? This year, there were three retirees and they decided unanimously to contribute to the plan, so the MOA (Exhibit C) states that the retirees this year would be paid under the 403(b) plan with no cash option. He feels it should be the same provision going forward, but Mr. Rodgers would first need to talk to the union about it. Solicitor Roberts recommended that the board adopt the Memorandum of Agreement in this form with changes approved by the Board President as evidenced by his signature. That way another MOA would not have to be adopted in the future. The change would be making the agreement provide that the retirement severance would be paid through the 403(b) plan in all cases, not optionally. He also stated that if retirees are given the option of choosing cash, the IRS could consider it destructive receipt of income. It was agreed that a separate MOA would be required for the other employee groups. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 19, 2008**  
**Page 4**

---

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. Providing four (4) students with on-the-job clerical training and five (5) students with on-the-job maintenance/custodial training in the district during the summer months at minimum wage (35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks).
- B. The addition of the following individual to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective May 8, 2008, (pending completion of all employment requirements):
  - Kristen Hornberger (Elementary/Special Education)
- C. Memorandum of Agreement between Southern Columbia Area School District and Southern Columbia Education Association in the form of **Exhibit C** with such changes therein as may be approved by the Board President as evidenced by his execution thereof.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

On a motion by Slusser and second by Benner, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. Second reading and adoption of revised Policy 405 Employment of Substitute Professional Employees (Per Exhibit D).
- B. Second reading and adoption of revised Policy 434 Sick Leave (Per Exhibit E).
- C. Secondary Social Studies Textbooks and Reference Materials for the 2008-2009 school year (**Per Exhibit F**).
- D. To authorize the Board Secretary to send a Notice of Reasonable Assurance of Employment for the 2008-2009 school year to those non-instructional employees and substitutes employed less than 12 months.
- E. Participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch USDA Commodities Program for the 2008-2009 school year.
- F. 2008 Summer Fun-da-Mentals Program for students in grades K-2, June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Transportation will be provided and all costs will be covered by proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant.
- G. A K-4 field trip - school picnic to Knoebel's Amusement Resort in June 2009, with no expense to the district except for transportation. Funding provided by H.A.R.T.

## Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2008

Page 5

---

- I. The Southern Columbia Area Special Education Plan 2008-09 through 2010-11 (**per Exhibit H**) with such changes as may be deemed necessary by the Director of Special Education.

Prior to voting, President Yeager asked if 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must meet the same eligibility requirements as high school students. Mr. Nunkester replied that every athlete gets the same packet of information. President Yeager stated that it should not be just for athletes, but for everyone. He would also like attendance to be incorporated into the eligibility list. After some discussion, it was agreed that Item H pertaining to the Middle School Handbook would be tabled until June, with the understanding that the criteria would be changed from passing five major courses to failing two credits and the eligibility requirements would apply to all extra curricular, not co-curricular activities. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that the Board asked Mr. Reh to delineate to the public the effects from what the Board did to keep Jim Roth as coach. Mr. Reh stated that the Assistant Athletic Director/Strength Training Coordinator positions and the change to the point system were some of the factors that retained him. Mr. Roth received the most additional points as the coach with the most years of service, which would increase his salary by \$3,200.

Mr. Porter stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Geffken accused him of discriminating against TREMCO and large companies. His reason for voting against it was that he would like a broader range of companies to be able to bid on the project. He also noted that PDE approval is required for the project. Mr. Rodgers stated that the approval request forms are in the mail to PDE for all of the current projects. Mr. Porter asked who would be responsible for certifying that the job was done correctly. Mr. Stellfox stated that the district could spend a lot of money to have someone come in and do that, but generally the guarantee of the product is where you get that information. It was determined that ultimately Mr. Geffken would certify that the job was done correctly.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Reh reminded board members of a brief executive session following the meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary